(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar proposals with regard to reducing term of such medical courses or introduce new courses have been received from other States also; and

(d) if so, the details of decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Central Government and Medical Council of India have not so far received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh for recognising the three year diploma course in medicine and surgery. However, with reference to a news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th November, 2000 relating to the proposal of the Chhattisgarh Government to introduce a three year medical course, the Government of Chhattisgarh have been informed by the Medical Council of India that the Council is not in favour of recognising courses of shorter duration than prescribed in the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997 which is $5^{1}/_{2}$ years for the MBBS course including one year compulsory rotating internship.

(c) to (d) No, Sir

Quota for NRIs in approved medical colleges

2954. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of approved medical colleges in the country and seats available for NRIs;

(b) whether NRI quota exceeds more than the prescribed quota almost every year in these colleges in the absence of inspections by the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the action proposed against the Medical Council of India for dereliction of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present there are a total 189 approved/recognised medical colleges in India. The number of seats of NRI/foreign student in private institutions is 15% of the total number of seats as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(b) and (c) Since NRIs quota has been fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it is the primary responsibility of the concerned University and the State Government to ensure the compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Medical Council of India also look into this aspect whenever they undertake inspections of the colleges for renewal of annual permission, in case of newly established colleges and periodical inspections at an interval of five years in case of recognized colleges for continuance of the recognition of medical college.

Wastage of blood in hospitals

†2955. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Aspataalon main har saal barbaad ho jata hai ek lakh unit rakt", which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi, dated the 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to stop such wastage of blood in the hospitals; and

(c) the new steps to be taken by Government to purchase necessary equipment for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figures quoted in the report on magnitude of wastage of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.